New Arboretum agreement will mean more greenspace and less density for development

The WMU Foundation, the University and the City of Kalamazoo have reached a tentative new agreement on the 183-acre Arboretum housing project that will reduce its density by 15 percent and set aside 50 acres as public open space.

The agreement among the three parties will require approval by the city Commission. That action is expected within the next few weeks.

"We have listened to the concerns of the community and tried to be responsive to them," said President Floyd. "The new plans represent shared respect and effective communication between the city, its citizens and the University."

Appointments of new aviation dean, director of race relations institute will go to board

The appointments of a dean for the College of Aviation and a director for the Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations will be brought to the Board of Trustees June 25 for approval.

The appointments were announced, along with other personnel changes, in a June 16 memo to the University community from Provost Timothy Light.

James E. Crenan has been selected to serve as dean of the College of Aviation, formed with trustee approval in January from the School of Aviation Sciences. Crenan is currently an associate professor and chairperson of the Aviation Technology Division at the University of Alaska in Anchorage. Pending board approval, his appointment is effective Sept. 1.

Crenan had a 20-year career in the U.S. Air Force before entering academic life, teaching aviation first at Southern Illinois University from 1985 to 1988. He also has served as an associate professor and chairperson of the Department of Aerospace Technology at Indiana State University and as an associate professor at the University of Nebraska's Aviation Institute in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service.

On Monday and Tuesday, June 21 and 22, Viji "Murali" Muralidharan will visit campus. Muralidharan is currently the director of systems management and user support in the Center for Computer Information Technology at the University of Arizona. Her public presentation is set for 2 to 3 p.m. Monday in the Putney Lecture Hall, 1010 Fetzer Center.

Richard Wright, an internal candidate who is currently serving as the interim vice president for information technology, will make a formal presentation in his bid for the position from 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 30, also in the Putney Lecture Hall, 1010 Fetzer Center. Prior to becoming interim vice president, Wright served as the University's associate vice president for academic affairs.

The final candidate, William Max Ivey Jr., will visit campus Monday and Tuesday, July 12 and 13, and will make his presentation from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. in the Putney Lecture Hall, 1010 Fetzer Center. He is currently the director of the Center for Computing Services and Telecommunications at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

The vitae for the candidates are available at Waldo Library for examination.

Information technology candidates to speak

A session set for 2 p.m. today marks the first of four scheduled presentations and campus visits by candidates for the position of vice president for information technology.

All four candidates will make formal, public presentations on the topic of "Supporting the Research University through Information Technology."

Jerry A. Nogy, currently the chief information officer at the University of Toledo, will visit campus today, and tomorrow and make his presentation from 2 to 3 p.m. today in 2000 Schneider Hall.

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Playing a mixed role, Cassidy explains the processing of a soil sample in a mixed reactor. (Photo by Neil Rankin)

Profiles: Cassidy's research specialty is the biodegradation of petroleum contaminants by microorganisms that exist in soil and water. Cassidy and Efendiev are researching these organisms' production of biofuels or bioemulsifiers, which allow the microbes to consume the petroleum compounds more rapidly. Cassidy is researching these biofuels to determine their viability.
Azerbaijan

(Continued from page one)

in efforts to remediate the contaminated sites in Azerbaijan. He says that one of the attractions of this bioremediation method is its cost effectiveness.

Efendiev has seen many different approaches since he has been in the United States. He went to an orientation program at the University of Idaho and then on to Alaska, both Western states that have different methods of environmental management. "I was amazed by the Eastern United States. Azerbaijan is a small country with nine different climate zones. The diversity of climates and methods in this country offers many similar examples to study. "America has it all," he says.

Azerbaijan includes the Caucasian Mountains and those from that region are referred to as "Caucasians." Efendiev says that when they first arrived in the U.S. and were filling out forms, he and an American colleague were heartened to see Caucasian listed as an ethnicity option.

"We were excited because we thought they had established a special category on the form just for us," he recalls. He has since learned that the term in America applies to those of Caucasian or Georgian descent, which he finds amusing.

"Caucasians are like me," he says. "They have blue eyes and fair skin. It's a very mixed, multi-lingual area."
Imagine being an English teacher and told you can’t use Mark Twain’s “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” in your class, or having your school board adopt an “America first” policy, requiring that you teach that American culture is superior to all others.

Such issues of censorship in the classroom are not just a hot topic by Ellen H. Brinkley, English, Humanities, and Social Studies; Off Guard: Teachers Rethinking Censorship, a book recently published by Alynn and Bacon, takes a look at the societal causes of these battles and what teachers can do to combat them.

By including experiences of educators involved in curricular controversies, the book gives practical information and insights to help educators respond to the concerns, fears and demands of parents and organizations who are involved in curricular controversies.

Brinkley says that she developed the book because many times teachers don’t want to think about these issues and will just do what they believe is “safe.” She says that in her role where teachers are asked to discuss problems, methods or philosophies are under fire, instructors should know “what they are up against and what’s better to find alternatives.”

The issue of censorship in the classroom has interested Brinkley for more than two decades. Brinkley grew up and then taught in Kalamazoo County. When, in 1974, a school board wanted to prohibit protest marches, school boycotts and a strike by thousands of area coal miners and city workers, Brinkley authored a letter to the superintendent. She spurred a book, song and documentary film, erupted into violence with the bombings of schools, the city of Parched and the boarding of education building and gunfire at picket points.

“The objection to the textbooks was that they were biblical and quoted the pro:testors of this county saw them as communists,” explains Brinkley. “The resistance was heavy. The school district had a superintendent who used to read from the books in meetings to inflame people’s passions. Then she was assigned a lightning rod that attracted the disgruntled and disenfranchised.”

While the Kalamazoo County case seems extreme, the underlying conflict over teachers’ curriculum choices happens more often than most would like to admit, Brinkley says.

“There is a real sense of dissatisfaction with public schools and that creates a climate where there’s more resistance,” she adds. “It is not enough time for teachers, because there is less willingness to accept their word and they are under a lot more scrutiny. As a result, they have to be good enough to help the public understand the value of what happens in their classrooms.”

Her book aims to give teachers valuable information to aid them in challenging to their curriculum. In addition to describing situations of resistance and controversies that can occur, she also gives practical tips for dealing with these conflicts.

The first step, Brinkley says, is awareness. “Teachers need to learn to play a unique role of explaining and defending curricular choices,” she says. “They have to be good enough to present their positions and become a2 activist and advocate for public education.”

To that end, Brinkley gives detailed strategies for policies and plans to deal with controversies. In most chapters, Brinkley devotes some space to teachers who can do about censorship in a variety of areas, including science, religion, writing and reading. She says that these teachers and classes have survived because their book apart from others dealing with the topic of educational censorship.

Service
These faculty and staff members are recognized for five, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service to the University in June. The University of Illinois, 30 years—Theodore J. Petropoulos, Bernhard Center. 25 years—Sandra J. Edwards, occupational therapy and Leigh W. Fitzgerald, public safety.

20 years—Karin F. Carl, College of Education; Linda A. Goldner, College of Arts and Sciences; Mark S. Hall, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Martha A. Miller, higher education and recreation; Paul D. Miller, physical plant-building maintenance services; and Cheryl L. Siwo, payroll.

15 years—Jeanne Baron, University relations; and Billie A. Blake, international affairs.

10 years—Ralphod Bortoletti, physical plant-power plant; Kirk B. Dillery, physical plant-maintenance services; Jane Jones, continuing education; Robert R. Eversole, biological sciences; Scott G. Enge, management; Don D. LeChance, registrar’s office; Thomas Lentz, continuing education; and G. Gwen Rahn, financial aid.

5 years—Kevin J. O’Donnell, Center for Disability Services; and Lorrie Ann Shipley, Asian and Middle Eastern languages.

Shippers to be feted
The University community is invited to attend a retirement reception for Nelson P. Shippers, physical plant-maintenance services, from the office of the President to be held Thursday, June 30, in the President’s Dining Room at the Bernhard Center. Shippers, a licensed plumber, will retire that day after more than 34 years of service to the University.

Jobs
The following list of vacancies is currently being posted through the Job Opportunities Program and available at the Career Services, which are also housed at the University Medical and Health Science Center.

S-O 1 and S-O 2 clerical positions are not required for all. Interested persons interested in the Career Services, which are also housed at the University Medical and Health Science Center.

(R) Secretary II, S-O 5, Human Resources, 98/99 660, 6/15-6/2/99

Please call the Applicant Information Service at 7-3669 for up-to-date information on the Job Opportunities Program and vacancies available to external applicants.

(R) Replacement WMU is an EO/AEA employer.

Brinkley pens book on censorship, teaching

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University program puts injured workers back in campus jobs as they heal and learn competitive skills for continued employment

When God closes a door, he usually opens a window," says Margo Kellogg, who spent most of the past 15 years in special education as a teacher of the visually handicapped at the Kalamazoo School for the Blind and Hard of Hearing. But across the campus, there are untold stories of injured workers who have been helped back to work by WMU's Workers' Compensation and Reemployment Team. The programs are supported by the Division of Human Resources and are designed to last 12 weeks. During that time, an employee returns to work with a new, more expansive temperament to help them upgrade their skills and experience as a vocational rehabilitation counselor. "In that instance, we do all we can to assess any problems the employee may have to be backed up. In other cases, more extensive efforts may be required. The answer to that question is simple. "Keep everything," says Wright. "Start a special file for these notifications, which will continue to function and provide documentation for any future inquiries. It may be helpful to plan for two people when the Y2K problem won't end next January."